



## DATA AND DIGITAL MINISTERS' MEETING

### COMMUNIQUÉ

13 NOVEMBER 2020

Ministers met today, by teleconference, to discuss data and digital transformation and shared challenges arising from the coronavirus pandemic.

The following Ministers attended the meeting:

- The Hon Stuart Robert MP (Commonwealth)
- The Hon Victor Dominello MP (New South Wales)
- The Hon Danny Pearson MP (Victoria)
- The Hon Dave Kelly MLA (Western Australia)
- The Hon Michael Ferguson MP (Tasmania)
- Mr Chris Steel MLA (Australian Capital Territory)
- The Hon Paul Kirby MLA (Northern Territory)

#### **Data and digital transformation remains a priority**

Data and digital technology is increasingly shaping all domains across the Australian government, from education to child safety, planning to law and regulatory activities – meaning national collaboration and coordination is even more crucial.

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic is a reminder of the increasing reliance we have on technology in our day-to-day lives. During 2020 many more people turned to government digital services, whether it was applying for Jobseeker or business support payments online, participating in telehealth consultations, or remote work and schooling. Ministers continue to focus on improving outcomes for Australian by driving cross-government collaboration on data and digital transformation and smarter service delivery.

#### **Streamlining and coordinating ICT procurement processes**

ICT and digital technologies play a critical role in stimulating our economy and supporting business recovery post COVID-19, especially for small and medium enterprises, which will drive productivity growth and support regional communities. Ministers agreed there are significant opportunities to collaborate on ICT procurement practices.

#### **Exploring national multi-hazards systems**

After the 2019/20 summer bushfires, jurisdictions have been developing solutions to provide our community with up-to-date information on fires, floods and cyclones and give clear advice on steps the community should follow to stay safe.

Ministers agreed this critical data needs to be accessible and shareable, providing evidence and insights to inform people's decision-making across borders. Ministers discussed opportunities to expand the sharing of critical information across borders to enable industry to build better solutions based on this information.

## **Closing the digital divide**

Ensuring equitable access to the benefits of digital transformation for Australians remains a priority. Ministers agreed to explore options for new digital inclusion projects to achieve a cohesive and effective approach to this important national issue.

Information on the Data and Digital Ministers' Meeting, including previous meeting communiqués, can be found at [www.pmc.gov.au/ADDC](http://www.pmc.gov.au/ADDC)

On 23 October 2020, National Cabinet accepted recommendations of the Review of former COAG Councils and Ministerial Forums. The Australian Data and Digital Council will continue as the Data and Digital Ministers' Meeting. The full report can be found [here](#).